

# The Call to Discipleship

Matthew 9:9-17

## JESUS CALLS MATTHEW (9:9-13)

***As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. (Matthew 9:9)***

Matthew, as a tax collector, was officially excommunicated from the synagogue and unofficially from respectable society. Therefore, it's striking that Jesus would call Matthew to follow him, but Matthew's \_\_\_\_\_ response is even more striking! If Christ called an uninterested and undeserving sinner like Matthew, then there is hope that \_\_\_\_\_ we know can receive the sovereign call of Christ.

***And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. (Matthew 9:10)***

The main point of the incident was not that the tax collectors and sinners were willing to associate with Jesus but that Jesus was willing to associate with them. Christ Jesus came into the world to save \_\_\_\_\_.! (1 Timothy 1:15)

***And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" (Matthew 9:11)***

As with their many other questions to and about Jesus, the Pharisees motive was not to learn the truth but to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus. Although Jesus was fully aware of the Pharisees' true intent (cf. 9:4), he took their question at face value and explained exactly why he had done what he did. In his brief reply, he gave three arguments in defense of actions:

- The first argument was from \_\_\_\_\_.  
"It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick."  
(9:12)
- The second argument was from \_\_\_\_\_.  
"***Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.'***" (9:13)
- The third argument was from his \_\_\_\_\_.  
"***I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.***" (9:13)

## A QUESTION ABOUT FASTING (9:14-17)

### Why didn't Jesus' disciples fast?

Jesus was saying that he is God, and that he had come to betroth His people to him forever. Since fasting was often connected to sadness or mourning, this was a time for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, not fasting.

In verses 16–17, two more illustrations are used to make the point that God was doing something \_\_\_\_\_ with the coming of Jesus. The pharisaical, legalistic, external, self-righteous system of traditional Judaism could neither connect with nor contain the ministry and message of Christ. Although the present hour was a time for celebration, Jesus spoke of a time when fasting would be appropriate.

## Conclusion

In this passage, we see three marks of the true believer:

- First, like Matthew, the true believer \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord.
- Second, the true believer has \_\_\_\_\_ on the unsaved.
- Third, a true believer forsakes \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.